

**BOONTON
HIGH SCHOOL**



**ATHLETIC
CODE OF CONDUCT**

REVISED 8/1/13

Athletics as well as education requires an atmosphere of good order and discipline. Good order and discipline may be described as the absence of distraction, frictions, and disturbances that interfere with an environment conducive to good sportsmanship and fair play.

Any violation of the above mentioned criteria would result in disciplinary action taken under the Athletic Code of Conduct and our Disciplinary Code of Student Conduct. Any team captain in violation of the above criteria will be removed from his/her position as captain.

David Huguen
Director of Athletics

Dear Student-Athlete and Parents:

Welcome to the Boonton High School Athletic Department. You are about to embark on what I hope will be a highly successful and enjoyable athletic season.

As a student-athlete at Boonton High School, you will be exposed to outstanding learning experiences that you can only get through athletics. I hope that you learn the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline and hard work. I also want to remind you that along with the benefits of athletic participation come responsibilities.

As a Boonton High School Student-Athlete, you represent your team, your school and your community. Take this responsibility seriously. Because of your high visibility, people will be watching you at all times and your words and actions will directly affect the way people view our school and communities. Remember, also, that whether you like it or not, you will be a role model for the youngsters of our communities.

This *Athletic Code of Conduct* will serve as a guide to appropriate behavior. Please read it carefully as you will be held accountable for its content. As you go through your daily life, whether before, during or after school, you can assure your success by following just a few rules. First, always follow "The Golden Rule" – treat others the way you wish to be treated. Second, "Do What is Right" – this rarely needs explanation. Deep down, we all know what the right thing to do is. Finally, when in doubt, "Use Common Sense".

When I look at student-athletes, I am reminded of a quote: "To those whom much is given, much is expected." Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Those who represent Boonton High School in the athletic arena gain so much from the experience. The talents that have been bestowed upon you also give you tremendous opportunities not afforded to all young people. But remember, because of this, much will be expected from you. Be proud and live up to the high expectations that the entire community and I have for you.

If you have any questions regarding this *Athletic Code of Conduct* or any other issues regarding athletics, please let me know.

Sincerely

Dave Hughen
Director of Athletics

Boonton High School Athletic Code of Conduct

I. Eligibility

As a student-athlete, eligibility to participate in any sport, is dependent upon meeting all criteria of the NJSIAA which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To be eligible for athletic competition during the fall sports season of the 10th grade or higher, or the second year of attendance in the secondary school or beyond, a student-athlete must have passed a minimum of 30 credits during the immediately preceding academic year.
- All incoming 9th graders are automatically eligible during the fall sports season.
- To be eligible for athletic competition during the winter sports season, a student-athlete must have passed a minimum of 30 credits during the immediately preceding academic year **and** must have passed the equivalent of 6.875 credits during the first marking period of the current school year. This provision applies to all student-athletes, grades 9-12.
- To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (spring sports season) of the 9th grade or higher, a student-athlete must have passed a minimum of 15 credits at the close of the preceding academic semester (first two marking periods) **and** must have passed the equivalent of 6.875 credits during the second marking period of the current school year. Full-year courses shall be equated as ½ of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.
- A senior who is carrying less than the equivalent of 15 credits during the first semester of his/her senior year, will be eligible during the second semester provided they are meeting the district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses in which they are enrolled at the start of the first semester.
- Any summer work for make up purposes for **failed courses during the previous academic year**, completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day, in the fall semester, may be used for eligibility purposes.
- No student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the 9th grade.
- A student who turns 19 before September 1 of any school year shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition. A student who becomes 19 after September 1 shall remain eligible for the entire year.
- Any transfer student who has not had a bona fide change of address must complete an NJSIAA Transfer Waiver Form and be cleared by the NJSIAA prior to participation in scrimmages or games. Transfer students who have earned a varsity letter and have not had a bona fide change of address will be required to sit out thirty (30) days from the first scheduled game in a season. Transfer students who have a bona fide change of address do not have to miss any games regardless of previous varsity status.

II. Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

All student-athletes, which include all team-associated students such as managers, statisticians, and student trainers, are subject to the *Athletic Code of Conduct* during any athletic season in which they participate. An athletic season is defined as the time from the first day of practice until the final game.

Since student-athletes are always representatives of their teams, the athletic department and Boonton High School, there are year-round expectations of behaviors. These behaviors, along with their consequences, are noted throughout the *Athletic Code of Conduct*.

In addition, all students, including athletes and team-associated students, are subject at all times to the rules, regulations, policies and appropriate sanctions set forth by the Board of Education and the High School Administration. Said policies can be found in the Boonton School District Policy Book and the Boonton High School Student Handbook. All policies and penalties found in this *Athletic Code of Conduct* are in addition to approved Board and Administration policies and penalties.

A. Expectations for Student-Athletes and Team-Associated Students

1. All student-athletes are obligated to read, understand and abide by all rules of student conduct outlined in the Boonton High School Student Handbook and Boonton School District Board of Education Policy Book.
2. All student-athletes must recognize and understand that participation in athletics is a privilege. Student-athletes must also accept the responsibilities that accompany such privilege.
3. All student-athletes must abide by all health and training regulations set down by both the Athletic Department and individual teams.
4. All student-athletes must accept the role of team player and avoid actions that are detrimental to the unity and success of the team and program.
5. All student-athletes must remember that as a member of the Boonton High School athletic program, they no longer just represent themselves. As a representative of their team, school and community, they must demonstrate a positive image at all times. Appearance, conduct, performance and sportsmanship must be above reproach both in and out of the athletic arena.
6. All student-athletes must respect the role of spectators, coaches, officials and teammates at all times.
7. All student-athletes must understand the role of athletics in the overall educational program. Academics must be the primary focus of the student-athlete, and at no time should they allow athletics interfere with academic endeavors.
8. All student-athletes are permitted to compete in "outside" competition during their athletic season, but must accept the premise that Boonton High School athletics takes priority over all "outside" activities. At no time should

“outside” activities interfere with proper training and/or successful competition in high school sports.

9. All student-athletes shall be permitted to change sports during an athletic season with the approval of both head coaches involved. Participation in strenuous sports will require six days of practice in accordance with NJSIAA regulations, regardless of when the change is made.

PUPIL DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT

- Students are expected to follow directions of administrators, teachers and other staff members.
- Students are expected to display that type of behavior which contributes positively to the overall atmosphere of the school.
- Students are expected to demonstrate respect for staff and other students.
- Students are expected to attend school **not** under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs.
- Students are expected **not** to be in possession of or sell alcohol or drugs.
- Students are expected to respect all personal and school property.
- Students are expected to conform to dress code policy.

The following chart lists the minimum actions to be taken. Penalties may vary according to the severity and frequency of the offense. Any offenses not listed here shall be dealt with on an individual basis. Age, grade, maturity, and intellectual ability play a major role in student behavior. Every discipline problem is dealt with on a case by case basis, allowing for due process. Due process plays an important role of each infraction and may determine a different outcome other than the pre-determined consequence listed below.

If any student is a participant in an extra-curricular activity during the violation, NO EXCEPTIONS will be made to accommodate their practice, game, or event.

Athletic Consequences: The following guidelines will be put in place in the event a student-athlete is given a 3 Hour Central Detention, Saturday Detention, OSS (Out of School Suspension).

- 1st 3 Hour Central Detention, Saturday Detention, OSS = 1 game/date suspension;
- 2nd 3 Hour Central Detention, Saturday Detention, OSS = 2 game/date suspension;
- 3rd 3 Hour Central Detention, Saturday Detention, OSS = 2 week suspension;
- 4th 3 Hour Central Detention, Saturday Detention, OSS = athletic season suspension;

*Due to the number of games in a football season, football athletes will receive ½ the suspension. 4th 3 Hour Central Detention, Saturday Detention, or OSS will still result in athletic season suspension.

B. Conditions for participation by Student Athletes and Team-Associated Students

- a. All student-athletes must be in school for a minimum of 4 hours in order to participate in games or practices. Exceptions can be exercised, with prior approval, at the discretion of the High School Administration.
- b. Any student-athlete who is suspended, in or out of school, is not permitted to participate in games or practices during the period of suspension.
- c. Any student-athlete who fails to participate in physical education class for medical reasons is not permitted to participate in games or practices that day.
- d. Any student-athlete who is habitually late to school during his/her athletic season may be suspended from games and/or practices after a meeting with the Director of Athletics.

C. Sanctions for violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct – non training

- a. Misconduct during an athletic contest including, but not limited to, profanity, fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting opponents, disrespect to officials, coaches or fans, inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- b. Conduct unbecoming an athlete including, but not limited to, stealing, vandalism, academic dishonesty.

Penalties for the above violations of the Code:

First offense: 2 games (or 1 game for athletes participating in a scheduled sport that has 10 regular season games or less) suspension. At the discretion of the administration, suspension from practices may also be enacted.

Second offense: 2-week suspension from all activities. At the discretion of the administration, student-athlete may attend, but not participate in practices.

Third offense: Athletic season suspension.

Fourth offense: School year suspension from athletics

All offenses against a student-athlete are subject to disciplinary actions by the high school Principal or Vice Principal.

Any student-athlete disqualified by an official twice in a calendar year, will be suspended from athletics indefinitely and must apply for reinstatement in writing to the Principal. At the discretion of the administration, the above penalties may or may not be served concurrently with NJSIAA sanctions.

The administration reserves the right to assess additional sanctions based on the severity of the incident.

NJSIAA disqualification policy (partial)

- a. Any student-athlete disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two regularly scheduled games, with the exception of football which will carry a one game disqualification, at that level of competition and all other games in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA or the league may assess.
- b. A disqualified player may not be present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification. Definition of not being present at the site means the disqualified player is not to be present in the locker room, on the bus, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game. Any player in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of games played during the period of disqualification.
- c. Any player disqualified twice in a single or multiple sports will have the penalty doubled. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- d. On the third offense, in single or multiple sports, player disqualified will be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to the NJSIAA through the Principal for reinstatement. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- e. Should a player be disqualified from the final game of the season, said disqualification will carry over to the next year in that sport.
- f. Seniors who are disqualified from their last game or next to last game will serve the penalty in a subsequent sports season according to the penalty provision of that subsequent sport. When seniors are disqualified from their last game of their high school careers, and are unable to fulfill the penalty, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the offending student.

D. School Suspensions

The following guidelines will be put in place in the event of a student-athlete given a suspension during the season:

- Athletic punishment will be dictated by the school's disciplinary policy.

E. Training Rules

- No student-athlete, or team-associated personnel, shall use, possess or distribute tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substances. This policy is in effect at all times, throughout the entire year. The following sanctions shall be imposed when offenders are not under the jurisdiction of School Board Policy and/or the Boonton High School Student Handbook.
- It is the goal of the Athletic Department to help student-athletes combat addiction problems, and not simply punish and abandon them. With this in mind, any student who comes for help with a tobacco, alcohol or drug problem prior to being caught in violation of the policy will receive assistance without penalty.
- Since training for athletics is a year-round endeavor, any student-athlete in violation of training rules during an out-of-season period is subject to the same penalties below during his/her first athletic season following the infraction.

1. Tobacco – including cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco

The following guidelines will be put in place in the event of a student-athlete given a suspension during the season:

Athletic punishment will be dictated by the school's disciplinary policy

2. Alcohol and controlled substances

The following guidelines will be put in place in the event of a student-athlete given a suspension during the season:

Athletic punishment will be dictated by the school's disciplinary policy All alcohol and controlled substance incidents must be referred to the Substance Abuse Coordinator/Administration. If an assessment is recommended, the student-athlete MUST comply and agree to treatment recommendations in order to return to active athletic participation.

F. Hazing

Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such

activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol, creation of excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shocks, wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste, engaging in public stunts of buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities.

Abusive or humiliating acts against another are contradictory to the ideals of teamwork and the Boonton High School Athletic Department. Hazing in any form, either mental or physical will not be tolerated. It is the duty and responsibility of each team member to discourage this behavior. It is your obligation as a Boonton High School student-athlete to report any incidents of hazing to the Director of Athletics immediately. Any student involved with, or having knowledge of, any hazing incident will be subject to the following sanctions:

The following guidelines will be put in place in the event of a student-athlete given a suspension during the season:

Athletic punishment will be dictated by the school's disciplinary policy

III. Appeals process

The Boonton High School Athletic Department makes every effort to work cooperatively with parents and student-athletes in the administration of the *Athletic Code of Conduct*. Parents who feel their son or daughter has been unfairly accused of and/or penalized for a violation of the *Athletic Code of Conduct* may appeal the decision. The appeal should begin with the person who determined that a violation has occurred. Any sanction may be immediately imposed so long as all conditions of due process have been met.

The following "chain of command" should be followed in the appeal of decisions made under the *Athletic Code of Conduct*:

- A. Student and/or parents should discuss their concerns with the team and head coach.
- B. If the parties concerned feel that the discussion with the coach has not led to a satisfactory conclusion, they may continue the appeal with the Director of Athletics in an attempt to reach an acceptable conclusion.
- C. If the parties concerned feel that the discussion with the Director of Athletics has not led to a satisfactory conclusion, they may continue the appeal with the building principal.
- D. If the situation is not resolved to the satisfaction of the applicant, it may be further appealed to the Superintendent of Schools. The appeal to the Superintendent must be in writing specifying the nature of the problem. The Superintendent shall attempt to resolve the matter promptly and shall

communicate his/her decision in writing, with reasons, to the parties concerned.

- E. If the appellant does not deem the decision rendered by the Superintendent satisfactory, he/she may request a review by the Board of Education. Such request must be submitted in writing. The Board of Education shall review the appeal and may, at its discretion, conduct a hearing. The Board of Education shall render a written decision.
- F. If attempts to resolve a problem are not successful at the local level, the parents/guardians may appeal to the County Superintendent of Schools for his/her advice and counsel and attempt to arrive at a solution. The law also provides for a report to the Commissioner of Education, who is expressly empowered to hear and decide controversies and disputes related to the conduct of public schools. Any person may file an appeal to the Commissioner of Education on behalf of any student or group of students protesting an act or failure to act on the part of local school authorities. After hearing and considering all of the facts in the situation, the Commissioner has the authority to take appropriate corrective action.

IV. Procedural Notes

- A. Alleged violations of the *Athletic Code of Conduct* that are brought to the attention of the school administration by any person other than an employee of the Board of Education must be forwarded in writing and signed by the person observing the alleged violation. Correspondence should include the names of individual(s) involved, the date, time, place and nature of the violation.
- B. The determination that a violation of the *Athletic Code of Conduct* has occurred may be made by a team coach, head coach, Director of Athletics or the building Principal.
- C. All sanctions imposed for violations must be reviewed by the Director of Athletics prior to imposition.
- D. In any and all instances of violations to "Athletic Code of Conduct" it should be noted that disciplinary actions will be taken as outlined in this "Athletic Code of Conduct" pamphlet as well as the Boonton High School Discipline School Code of Conduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT

FANS – The term “fan” comes from the word “fanatic”. Fans have been known to be emotional and erratic in their behavior, and beyond question totally supportive and loyal to their team. We must be proactive with this understanding of fans and convince our fans to root for our team and not against our opponents or more appropriately, our guests. We need to set the example of how we would like our athletes to be treated when they are on the road. A unified approach by coaches and parents/fans working together should ensure that our program meets the goals of proper citizenship and sportsmanship that will be demonstrated by everyone. Parents care about having strong, educationally sound programs for their children.

The Boonton Board of Education promotes good sportsmanship, as defined in Policy 5570, at all youth sports events of the district. For the purpose of this Policy, “youth sports event” means a competition, practice or instructional event involving one or more interscholastic sport teams sponsored by the Boonton Board of Education and as defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq. any person who:

1. Engages in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any pupil, coach, official or parent; or
2. Any person who initiates a fight or scuffle with any pupil, coach, official, parent or other person
3. Any person displaying inappropriate conduct at or in connection with a school sponsored youth sports event, shall be banned from being present at subsequent events.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq., the Boonton Board of Education will require all pupils, coaches, parents (s) / legal guardian (s) of pupils, as a condition of participation in all middle and high school Board sponsored athletic programs, sign a Code of Conduct that would require those persons to refrain from verbal or physical threats of abuse aimed at any pupil, coach, official or other parent, or, from initiating any fight or scuffle with any person.